

I AM NAVY MEDICINE: HOSPITAL CORPSMAN 2ND CLASS ERIN SHELLY-MOODY

Story by Petty Officer 1st Class Ryan Riley

In an all-hands message, Capt. Shannon Johnson, Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command (NMRTC) Bremerton Commanding Officer, announced that Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Erin Shelly-Moody had been selected as the hospital's Sailor of the Quarter for the first quarter.

"I am confident that you will continue the hard work and superior performance," wrote Johnson on Jan. 24, 2020. "Thank you for your dedication."

Looking back, Shelly-Moody remembers how it felt when he received the news.



Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Erin Shelly-Moody poses for a photo in the Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command (NMRTC) Bremerton's Ophthalmology Department Jan. 29, 2020. Shelly-Moody was selected as NMRTC Bremerton's Sailor of the Quarter for the first quarter of fiscal year 2020. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass

Communication Specialist 3rd Class Meagan Christoph/Released)

"My immediate reaction to being selected as Sailor of the Quarter was gratitude for those who worked so hard to support me and never stopped challenging me to grow, and gratitude for the teammates who afforded me the opportunity to take on those challenges," he said. "To me, this is not just recognition, but also a mandate. A mandate to serve my peers, empower my juniors and share what experience I can for the betterment of the team."

Although Shelly-Moody grew up all over the United States and graduated from Honoka's High School in Hawai'i, he says Bellingham, Wash., "is the place I call home."

Knowing that he wanted to be a surgical technician and work in an operating room, Shelly-Moody joined the Navy out of Seattle in 2010.

"I saw the Navy as my best path to reach that goal," he said. "Hard work in Hospital Corpsman School gave me the opportunity to reach that goal right away with an assignment to Surgical "C" School immediately to follow."

Being in Navy Medicine has given him the opportunity to travel the globe being stationed in the U.S. and abroad.

"The Navy has taken me to Naval Medical Center San Diego, Naval Hospital Naples in Italy, Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, and brought me full circle to [NMRTC] Bremerton," said Shelly-Moody. "I have been fortunate to be able to fill a variety of assignments during that time."

Although the travel has been a great experience while serving in Navy medicine, Shelly-Moody said the people he has served with has made a lasting impression.

"I have been fortunate to have diverse and exciting experiences with the Navy," he said. "However, the most memorable and rewarding parts of my career have been about the connections to fellow Sailors along the way. Relieving the watch for a senior chief I looked up to, retiring from the service, and being asked to frock one of my juniors, who I had mentored, as they took their first step forward as a petty officer, were singular events in my career that gave renewed purpose to my journey."

Feeling strongly about supporting the Navy surgeon general's priority of operational readiness, Shelly-Moody, assigned to the command's Ophthalmology Department, said his team is passionate about what they provide.

"With the constant need to maintain a ready fleet and prepared Sailors, I'm proud to be a part of a team that works every day to enhance the effectiveness of our active duty members," he said. "Through refractive eye surgery, our department is able to improve vision for service members from all rates and across the region, making them more effective in their mission."

After a decade serving in Navy Medicine, the one sentence he used to sum up his experience is, "Navy Medicine is all about delivering adaptive, sustained and highly-qualified care to those who need it most, wherever they are."